

## JANE BECKWITH



- i     **LIVING**
- i     **High School/College Instructor, Historian**
- i     **Topaz Internment Camp Preservationist**

Jane Beckwith is a resident of the central Utah community of Delta. She graduated from Delta High School and Brigham Young University. Continually seeking knowledge, she has additional studies at Utah State University, Northern Arizona University and the University of Utah.

Jane has taught English on the Navajo Reservation in Arizona and in Hiroshima, Japan. She currently teaches Advanced Placement English, Honors English, Journalism for Delta High School and concurrent enrollment English for Snow College. She has received numerous honors for her inspirational teaching. Under her direction, her students have placed first in the Utah State History Fair and received six awards for the Best Utah high school newspaper.

As founder and president of the Topaz Museum Board, Jane's vision has stretched far beyond her community to impact all citizens of Utah and the nation. She and her students began studying Topaz and internment in 1982. Since that time, she, subsequent students and the Museum Board have been working toward building a museum dedicated to the memory of the many Japanese Americans who were sent to live at Topaz during World War II.

Because of Jane's vision, visitors can walk the halls of a restored portion of a recreation hall that was used at camp and imagine what it would have been like to live in barracks at Topaz. In addition, the Topaz Museum Board purchased 520 acres of the Topaz site so that it will be saved from future development. They reprinted the book, "The Price of Prejudice" and distributed a copy to each school and library in Utah and in the San Francisco Bay Area, the home of many former Topaz residents. The Topaz site became a "Save America's Treasures Project." The board has just complete a J. Paul Getty grant to do an archeological survey of the site.

Jane's hard work and perseverance has preserved an important part of our history which reminds us to learn from the past as we solve current problems. Jane is a Utah treasure.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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